NESTOR MATA.

Time to Name New Ambassador To Washington

IT IS TIME for President Marcos to dispatch a permanent ambassador of the Philippines to Washington, D. C. Be it Manila businessman Ernesto V. Lagdameo, who has been prominently mentioned in official as well as unofficial circles for that post, or some career diplomat, the important thing is someone should be accredited right away.

For one thing, whoever will be sent by the President would be able to get firsthand, and fresh, information on the evolving policies of the Nixon administration. And for another, he would be able to present in its true light the Marcos administration's recent pronouncements on foreign policy, particularly those touching on Philippine-American relations, to say how much is for domestic consumption and how much for the American public.

Ever since Ambassador S. P. Lopez was pulled out of the American capital (to become the President of the University of the Philippines, now wracked by student activism), we haven't had the benefit of hard information on what is going on there.

Washington official circles are disturbed by the Marcos administration's recent critical posture against the United States which, according to sources of the reliable confidential newsletter *Executive News*, seemed to have been prompted by "a misreading" of the Nixon administration's foreign policy objectives.

Misreading?

AMERICAN officials are particularly upset, [it is learned], over the Marcos administration's insistence that the United States is preparing to withdraw militarily from Asia. According to the newsletter's sources, "there is no pullout envisaged or planned. If anything, President Nixon is Asia-phile. In fact, it will take ten years and $30 billion to stabilize the Vietnamese economy after peace has been achieved in South Vietnam."

One Washington official was quoted by those sources as saying that too much of Asia's economy has become entwined with America's for the government to withdraw and that a pullout would spell the death of U.S. trade and investment interests in the area.

American business interests also have voiced concern over the Marcos administration's foreign policy pronouncements. They are, the same sources said, wondering why President Marcos and his foreign secretary, General Carlos P. Romulo, have assumed what they feel to be "anti-U.S." postures.

All this indicates the need for President Marcos to send a regular ambassador to the U.S. capital, if only, as noted above, to get a correct reading of the emerging Asian policies of the Nixon administration as well as give the correct interpretation of the Marcos administration's own policies.

Lagdameo or Romualdez?

UNDIPLOMATIC TALK ..... What's delaying the accreditation of a Philippine ambassador to Washington? According to our Padre Faura spies, CPR didn't relish the idea of dispatching an amateur to the U.S. capital and suggested a veteran career man instead. CPR personally didn't have anything against the nomination of businessman and friend of Nixon Ernesto V. Lagdameo, but he thought it would be best to assign a skilled diplomat, or somebody like Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez. But, alas, it's going to be Lagdameo just the same! .... A good example of that old saying — damn if you do and damn if you don't — is the storm over President Marcos' income tax. If he didn't make an accurate declaration of his income, he would have been attacked by Liberals and fellow Nacionalistas alike. If he did, as he already has done, he would be roundly attacked, as he is being attacked now, just the same. Calumnies are answered best with silence .... Somebody left quietly for Taipei where, he hopes, he'd be able to convince a publisher to put out another version of Julius Mader's book "Who's Who in CIA." The Chinese Intelligence Agency version, that is .... Now student leaders are clawing each other. Well, as they say, a revolution devours its own children — or is it leaders?